

REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Office Actions of May 27, 2003, and September 25, 2003. In particular, the Applicants appreciate the indication that Claims 12-16, 73-87, and 91-93 are allowed, and that Claims 6-8, 11, 17, and 88-89 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, the Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include all recitations of Dependent Claim 88 (which has been indicated allowable); rewritten Claim 6 in independent form; and canceled Claim 88. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is thus respectfully requested in due course.

Withdrawal Of All Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 112 Is Requested

Claims 9-10, 68-72, and 90 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 112, first paragraph. More particularly, the Office Action states that:

Claims 9 and 90 contain the new limitation "at least as high a diffusion rate of Indium at room temperature." There is support for metals having a high diffusion rate such as Indium in the disclosure, however, there is no support for metals having a diffusion rate at least as high as a diffusion rate of Indium.

Office Action, page 2.

The Applicants respectfully disagree. In particular, the specification, as originally filed, states that:

The metal particles may comprise a metal having a relatively high diffusion rate at relatively low or ambient temperatures, such as indium.

Moreover, Claims 9 and 10 (as originally filed) recite:

9. A method according to Claim 8 wherein the metal comprises a metal having a relatively high diffusion rate at room temperature.
10. A method according to Claim 9 wherein the metal comprises Indium.

Application, page 8, lines 24-26.

Indium is thus provided as an example of a metal having a high diffusion rate. Accordingly, a metal having a diffusion rate higher than that of Indium would be a metal having a "high diffusion rate" according to the meaning of the term "high diffusion rate" in the specification as originally filed. Stated in other words, the term "high diffusion rate" includes

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the diffusion rate of Indium, and by definition, the term "high diffusion rate" also includes diffusion rates higher than that of Indium. For these reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 9-10, 68-72, and 90 meet all requirements of 35 U.S.C. Sec. 112, and withdrawal of all rejections under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 112 is respectfully requested.

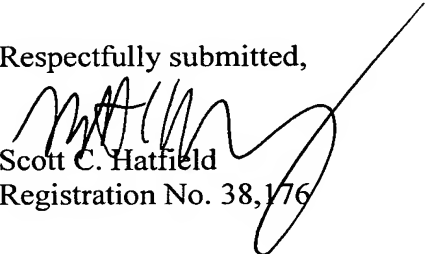
Reinstatement Of Withdrawn Claims 2-5, 18-29, And 33 Is Respectfully Requested

Dependent Claims 2-5, 18-29, and 33 were withdrawn from prosecution responsive to the election requirement of March 10, 2003. Applicants now request reinstatement of these dependent claims because these claims depend from allowed generic claims. In particular, Claims 2-5, 29, and 33 depend from Claim 1 (which has been placed in a condition indicated allowable by the Examiner), and Claims 18-28 depend from Claim 6 (which has been placed in a condition indicated allowable by the Examiner). Accordingly, reinstatement and allowance of Claims 2-5, 18-29, and 33 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, the Applicants submit that all pending claims in the present application are in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone should any additional issues need to be addressed.

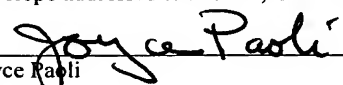
Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to MS AF; Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 7, 2003.


Joyce Paoli